Exciting Plans Continue for the 2013 ASIS&T Annual Meeting

Plans are firming up nicely for Beyond the Cloud: Rethinking Information Boundaries, the 2013 ASIS&T Annual Meeting taking place in Montreal, November 1-6. As this issue of the Bulletin is readied for publication, conference chairs France Bouthillier, McGill University, and Boryung Ju, Louisiana State University, report that they and their committee chairs have made preliminary selections for all program slots. They previously announced that Jorge Garcia, a senior business intelligence and data management analyst for Technical Evaluation Centers in Montreal, will deliver the keynote address at the meeting.

Pre-conference Workshops and Seminars

To accompany the technical program, an interesting array of pre-conference sessions has been selected for the meeting. Full details will be available in the preliminary program to be mailed shortly and on the ASIS&T website. But make plans now to participate in one or more of these sessions:

Friday, November 1
- PIM 2013: Breaking Out to More Practical Progress in Personal Information Management
- Metrics 2013: Workshop on Informetric and Scientometric Research (SIG/MET)

Saturday, November 2
- 9th Annual Social Informatics Research Symposium (SIG/SI)
- SIG/CR Workshop: Big Data, Linked Data: Classification Research at the Junction
- Eye-tracking for Information Science Researchers and Practitioners

Time to Vote for ASIS&T Officers and Directors

As it is every summer, it’s election season once again for the Association for Information Science and Technology. Electronic balloting is now underway for the election of a president-elect, treasurer and two directors-at-large. In addition, members are invited to cast their ballot for or against a bylaws change proposed by the Board of Directors. Voting ends on August 31, 2013. If you have not received an email containing your special username and password for this election, contact ASIS&T headquarters immediately for instructions.

Newly elected officers and directors will take their seats on the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Montreal.

Candidates for president-elect for 2014 are Sandra Hirsh and Prudence Dalrymple. Treasurer candidates are Vicki L. Gregory and Lisl Zach. Four candidates vying for two open director seats are Lauren Harrison, Isto Huvila, Mei-Mei Wu and June Abbas.

Candidates for President-elect

SANDRA HIRSH

Sandra Hirsh is professor and director of the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. Prior to joining SJSU in 2010, Hirsh held a
number of corporate jobs, including senior user experience manager at Microsoft and director of the information research program at HP Labs. Before the corporate stints, Hirsh was on the faculty at the University of Arizona. Her research interests focus on information-seeking behavior and understanding the information needs of a broad spectrum of users. Hirsh has served ASIS&T in a number of capacities, including as chair of the current Information Professionals Task Force and on conference organizing and program planning committees. Hirsh was serving as faculty advisor to the SJSU student chapter of ASIS&T when it was named Student Chapter-of-the-Year in 2012.

**PRUDENCE DALRYMPLE**

Prudence (Pru) Dalrymple is research and teaching professor at Drexel University and director of the Institute for Healthcare Informatics at the iSchool at Drexel University, where she works closely with the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing and Health Professions and the Schools of Public Health and Biomedical Engineering. After service as a medical librarian, she joined the faculty at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and was dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University. Within ASIS&T, she has twice served on the JASIST Best Paper Award jury, chaired the Education Committee and participated in the leadership of various SIGs and task forces. She served as director-at-large from 2009-12. She is also the longest serving member of the Information Professionals Task Force. She recently edited a special issue of the Bulletin on health informatics and has presented at numerous ASIS&T meetings.

**Treasurer**

**VICKI L. GREGORY**

Vicki L. Gregory is a professor at the School of Information, University of South Florida. Since joining ASIS&T in 1984, she has served as president of the Florida Chapter and, on the national level, has been a member of SIG/LAN, which she also chaired, and SIG/DL. She has held the elected positions of both deputy director and director of SIG Cabinet. For the last six years she has been ASIS&T treasurer; previously she was a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, pursuant to which service she developed an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the Society’s finances and as well as the ASIS&T budgeting process. During the last several years she has worked with ASIS&T management to developing a prudent investment program for the organization.

**LISL ZACH**

Lisl Zach is associate teaching professor in the College of Information Science and Technology at Drexel University. A member of ASIS&T since 1998, she has served on the Budget and Finance Committee since 2001. She has also served on a number of award juries for ASIS&T and was the SIG/USE liaison officer. Before returning to academia, Lisl spent 20 years working in for-profit and not-for-profit management. In addition to directing basic financial and administrative functions, she worked closely with responsible board committees to develop investment guidelines and monitored the performance of the investment managers of a $40 million endowment fund. She has also helped to develop standards for fiduciary responsibility and to identify appropriate levels of income that could be drawn from endowment funds to support operations.

**Directors-at-Large**

**LAUREN HARRISON**

Lauren Harrison is a senior scientist in pharmaceutical research and development informatics at Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., where she has been employed since 1979. Lauren has served in many global information scientist positions, including manager of library and information science and most recently as part of Hoffmann-La Roche’s newly created Translational Clinical Research Center. Lauren is also passionate about creating a new...
generation of information scientists so she serves as an adjunct professor at the Palmer School of Library & Information. Lauren has been active in ASIS&T since 1991. On the chapter level, she served as program chair, chapter chair and immediate past chair of the NJ Chapter. She also served as chair of SIG/MED for three terms. On the national level Lauren has served on the Leadership Committee and the ASIS&T Lecture Series Award Jury.

**ISTO HUVILA**

Isto Huvila is senior lecturer at the School of Business and Economics, Åbo Akademi University in Finland. He also works as an associate professor and project director at Uppsala University in Sweden. Isto’s research interests include information and knowledge management, information work, knowledge organization, documentation and social and participatory information practices. The context of his research ranges from archaeology and cultural heritage, archives, libraries and museums to social media, virtual worlds and corporate and public organizations. Isto is past chair of the ASIS&T European Chapter. He has also served on the planning committee of the 2013 SIG/USE research symposium, as a chair of the second ASIS&T European Workshop, technical program chair of the first ASIS&T European Workshop and as the secretary of the ASIS&T European Student Chapter.

**MEI-MEI WU**

Mei-Mei Wu is professor and founding chair of the Graduate Institute of Library & Information Studies at the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) in Taipei, Taiwan. She has served as chair of the ASIS&T International Relations Committee and chair of the ASIS&T Taipei Chapter. She has organized numerous international conferences and chaired multiple sessions/tracks in conferences. She is the co-founder of Chinese Information Literacy Association (CILA), founded in 2003. She also serves as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Library and Information Science*, an open access journal published by NTNU. She has led nationwide information literacy teaching and research projects and won online teaching awards. Her research publications appear in both Chinese and English, in monographs, book chapters, journal articles and conference papers.

**JUNE ABBAS**

June Abbas is professor in the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at the University of Oklahoma, Norman campus. She taught in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the State University of New York in Buffalo before joining moving to Oklahoma. She also held professional positions in public and special libraries. Her research focuses on the development of user-centered digital libraries, institutional repositories and other knowledge organization structures. She conducts research on youth and their use of technology, and the intersection between information behavior, information retrieval, and structures for organizing knowledge. She has also served as project manager on eight digital library projects and on task forces to develop institutional repositories. Her recently published book *Structures for Organizing Knowledge: Exploring Taxonomies, Ontologies and Other Schema* was nominated for ASIS&T Book of the Year in 2011.

Additional candidate information, including expanded biographical data and position statements, is available at the ASIS&T website at [http://asis.org/elections/](http://asis.org/elections/).

**Bylaws Amendment**

A proposed amendment to the ASIS&T Bylaws is also included on the ballot. Full details about the proposal are included in the June/July 2013 issue of the *Bulletin of the Association of Information Science and Technology* at the ASIS&T website. 

The International Calendar of Information Science Conferences ([icisc.neasist.org/](http://icisc.neasist.org/)) is a nonprofit collaboration between the Special Interest Group / International Information Issues (SIG/III) and the European (ASIST/EC) and New England (NEASIST) chapters of the Association for Information Science and Technology, with the additional support of Haworth Press.
Claire McInerney is the new acting dean of the School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University, succeeding Jorge Reina Schement, who was appointed Rutgers’ first vice president of diversity and inclusion. Dr. McInerney joined the SC&I faculty in 2000 and most recently served as associate dean for curriculum and assessment. She also serves on the editorial board of *JASIST*, the *Journal of the Association for Information Science & Technology*.

Heidi Julien, most recently a professor at the University of Alabama, is joining the Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Buffalo, in mid-August. She will serve as chair and professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies. Her research interests focus on information behavior, information literacy and education for information studies. She has served as chair of ASIS&T SIG/USE.

Dr. Kulthida Tuamsuk, dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand, graduate of Simmons College and chair of the organizing committee for the conference, also assisted with the coordination of the roundtable.

The event was an outgrowth of the ASIS&T European Chapter’s 2012 annual meeting held in conjunction with the Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) conference in Zadar, Croatia, in June 2012. At this meeting, attended by Levine, Dr. Theng and Dr. Makiko Miwa, The Open University of Japan, a discussion began on creation of an Asian-Pacific Chapter (see http://www.asis.org/Bulletin/Aug-12/AugSep12_Levine.html).

Levine outlined the structure and program of ASIS&T, how to create a chapter and student chapter, ASIS&T publications and activities, and costs of membership. Sponsoring a “light buffet” for the attendees.

Twenty-two participants attended a roundtable discussion explaining the Association for Information Science and Technology and considering the formation of an Asian-Pacific ASIS&T chapter. The session was held at the 5th International Conference on Asia-Pacific Library and Information Education and Practice (http://aliep2013.com) July 10-12, 2013, in Khon Kaen City, Thailand.

Dr. Yin Leng Theng, associate professor, Division of Information Studies, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, chaired the roundtable. She was joined by former ASIS&T president Candy Schwartz, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, and a keynote speaker at the conference, and Emil Levine, former chair and advisor of the European Chapter, who made the presentation. ASIS&T promoted the roundtable by sponsoring a “light buffet” for the attendees.

Emil Levine, right, former chair of the European Chapter of ASIS&T, meets Hao-ren Ke, current chair of Taipei Chapter.
Attendee Comments

Yin Leng Theng interacted with the attendees to determine their ideas of the opportunities and challenges in creating an ASIS&T Asian-Pacific Chapter. This interaction elicited the following brief discussions, conclusions and actions:

- Although JA/SIST is the top journal in the field, it may be too “technical” and “difficult” for many potential members. There is a need for a mid-range journal.
- The Taipei Chapter has not been so active but will increase its activity.
- Through ASIS&T, students can take advantage of the networks, meet famous people and start student chapters.
- Taipei, Bangkok and Singapore will promote student chapters.
- Former president Schwartz stated that capacity building and relevant formulation of information policies are essential.
- Indonesia noted their attendees needed to know more and that there is a lack of awareness about ASIS&T.
- Malaysia considered that one might increase awareness through academic staff and LIS schools.
- Social media should be exploited in the creation of an Asian-Pacific Chapter.

Dr. Songphan Choemprayong, a graduate of the School of Library and Information Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and lecturer in the Department of Library Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, agreed to serve as a coordinator for creation of an Asian-Pacific Chapter.

Christopher Khoo Soo Guan, also from Wee Kim Wee School, Singapore, and Hao-ren Ke, chair of the ASIS&T Taipei Chapter, also attended the roundtable and contributed to the discussion.


Photo top left, left to right, Kulthida Tuamsuk, Emil Levine and Yin Leng Theng. Photo above left, left to right, Christopher Khoo Soo Guan, Kulthida Tuamsuk, Chommanad Boonaree and Songphan Choemprayong at ASIS&T roundtable session. Above, Yin Leng Theng, far right, moderates ASIS&T roundtable session, with Candy Schwartz to her right.
To explore the feasibility of holding an annual meeting outside North America, the ASIS&T International Relations Committee (IRC) conducted a survey from September 18 to October 6 in 2012. The purpose of the survey was to determine the likelihood that ASIS&T members would attend an ASIS&T Annual Meeting and/or other events outside North America over the next five years. This report summarizes the main findings from the survey.

**Main Findings**

**Validity of findings: Self-Selective Sampling Fits the Membership Population in Terms of the Geographic Distribution.** A total of 247 responses were received. About two-thirds of all respondents are from North America (70.45%), followed by Europe (15.79%). The 2010 membership data indicated that members from North America represented 87.6%, followed by Europe at 6.4% and Asia at 3.5%. Although 2012 the membership count is not available, the percentage matches 2010 pattern (See Table 1). Compared with the 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographical location</th>
<th>2012 Survey</th>
<th>2012 Membership</th>
<th>2010 Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4.45</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australasia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>15.79</td>
<td>5.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
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<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>70.45</td>
<td>87.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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<td>Misc*</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

Note: Misc means that the respondent does not select any country.

Mei-Mei Wu is chair of the ASIS&T International Relations Committee. She is a professor in the Graduate Institute of Library and Information Studies at the National Taiwan Normarn University (NTNU), Taipei, Taiwan, ROC. She can be reached at meiwu<at>ntnu.edu.

Diane H. Sonnenwald is immediate past president of ASIS&T. She is professor and chair of information and library studies at UCD in Dublin, Ireland. She can be reached at diane.sonnenwald<at>ucd.ie.
membership data provided by ASIS&T headquarters, the survey sample was a reasonably good representation of the overall membership.

Preference for having an annual meeting in Europe rather than in the Asia-Pacific (AP) Region. The first part of the survey questions asked about the likelihood of attending ASIS&T Annual Meetings outside of North America. Figure 1 (question 1a) shows that 49% of the respondents indicated they were “very likely” or “likely” to attend an annual meeting in Europe, with only 21% stating they are “very unlikely” to attend an annual meeting in Europe. Figure 1 (question 1b) shows that 28% stated they are “very likely” or “likely” to attend an annual meeting outside of North America and in conjunction with other conferences is not just convenient but a real need; we are years behind other associations in those two aspects.

Meetings outside North America would demonstrate ASIS&T’s openness to countries other than the United States. Respondents commented that holding an annual meeting outside North America is also important for our discipline:

I do want to hear international perspectives on information science; they are absolutely vital to the progress of any field of research.

Greater involvement with our colleagues outside of North America is desirable. Definitely needed in this global environment.

Respondents raised concerns regarding U.S. green cards and visas and permission from some U.S. funding agencies and universities. It was noted that junior faculty waiting for green cards in the United States could not attend an annual meeting outside the United States. On the other hand, respondents also mentioned how difficult it can be to get a visa to attend the annual meeting in the United States. Two comments illustrate these points:

For our international junior faculty members who are awaiting green cards this could be a show stopper.

Right now it is very difficult to get an American visa although I got my doctorate degree from Case Western Reserve U, so I prefer if the conference is conducted outside United States.

Meetings in the Asia-Pacific (AP) region, and 40% are “very unlikely” to attend an annual meeting in AP. The data shows a stronger preference of having an annual meeting in Europe rather than in AP.

Respondents commented that holding an annual meeting outside North America could increase our membership. They wrote:

An excellent idea that would consolidate ASIS&T as a truly international association. For decades people from outside of the USA have made great efforts to attend – and at great expense.

If ASIS&T is going to grow as an organization, it needs to expand beyond the United States to attract and sustain vibrant member communities all over the globe.
Timing of the conference was another issue raised by respondents. A personal benefit to holding a conference outside North America is the opportunity to visit other places. However holding the annual meeting during the U.S. academic fall semester limits opportunities to combine sightseeing with annual meeting attendance.

Would be most likely to go to Europe or an Asian/Pacific country if I were interested in combining it with travel in that area.

Many of our people have the wherewithal to pay to see an exotic place.

I would love to attend an ASIS&T Annual Meeting outside [the United States]... but the travel time in the middle of a semester... would make it impossible.

The current annual meeting is during our university course time. A Europe annual meeting would be able to schedule in a better way, as the venue would be closer.

[From a respondent in Europe]

An issue raised in the past concerns participation in the administrative/business components of ASIS&T that are held during the annual meeting. If members could not attend an annual meeting outside North America, how would this impact the administrative/business components? It should be noted that currently this is an issue for international members. A respondent suggested a solution that could enhance the administrative components of all annual meetings:

The administrative components of annual meeting, e.g., business meeting, Chapter Assembly and SIG Cabinet, SIG business meetings) should be separated from the physical meeting when outside North America taking advantage of electronic communications.

Cost Analysis. As expected a concern expressed by respondents focuses on costs to attend an annual meeting. Many respondents from North America said that the costs to attend today are too high. Two respondents explained:

It is a hardship for me to even travel inside the United States. I had to really work hard to have the money to attend ASIS&T 2012.

My organization is not supporting any travel funding for the foreseeable future, so my chance of attending Annual Meeting even within North America is slim.

Thus no matter where annual meetings are held, some respondents will not be financially able to attend.

As shown in Figure 2 (question 4a) 51% of the respondents spend more than $500 to travel to the annual meeting. The average cost of travel is $672. Sixty-one percent reported spending more than $500 for lodging, with an average lodging cost of $673. When food and other costs are considered, an average cost of $1795 was reported. Recall, this cost does not include the annual meeting registration fee.
Table 2 provides an overview of all the related costs by geographic region. Not surprisingly since all annual meetings have been held in North America, the cost for attending is lowest for attendees from that region. But even so the cost to attend (excluding annual meeting registration fees) for attendees from North America is $1475.

As mentioned earlier, the average cost to attend an annual meeting is $1795. About 37.4% of this amount is for airfare ($672), another 37.5% is hotel costs ($673). Food (13.4%) and other costs (11.6%) account for another 25% of total cost. Attendees from North and South America spent 24.2% and 33.3% of average total cost on airfare, whereas attendees from Europe spent 42.8%. Attendees from other areas spent more than 50% on airfare.

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<th>TABLE 2. Estimated costs by geographic locations</th>
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<td>Airfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Australasia</td>
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<td>North America</td>
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<tr>
<td>South America</td>
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<td>*No country identified</td>
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</table>

*7 respondents did not list their countries in the survey.

Respondents mentioned their willingness to travel to an annual meeting outside North America provided costs are reasonable. They wrote:

*As long as the venue is cost efficient.*

*If it were done in Western Europe in a location that was easy to get to from the United States, I’d be okay with it, providing other costs are kept down.*

From the questionnaire data it appears that reasonable costs would be in the $1500-$1800 range for members in North America. Hotels are generally less expensive in Europe, and this may help reduce the registration fee as well as other costs because many hotels and universities in Europe charge less to use their facilities than hotels in North America. In addition many European universities offer inexpensive dorm rooms/suites for visitors. More rooms are usually available when the university is not in session, but usually a number of rooms are available even when the university is in session. With sufficient long-range planning as is usually done with regard to the annual meeting location these rooms could be reserved for annual meeting attendees.

There was also concerned expressed with respect to the financial ability of students to attend an annual meeting outside North America:

*I do worry about the ability of students to attend the meeting if held outside of the United States.*

*It will be a good thing. This may enable ASIS&T to be better known outside North*
America. And it will reduce costs for people from North America for a change. So I think the idea of rotating continents should be explored.

Many countries in Europe offer some financial support to international conferences that are held in their countries. This financial support could be used to support student attendance at the annual meeting. In addition student travel support could be sought from national funding agencies.

Respondents commented that holding the annual meeting periodically, e.g., every three to four years, outside North America would be a fair approach.

Holding them occasionally outside of North America would be good. Perhaps having every third conference outside of North America would be a good way to introduce this concept.

Maybe we can have the Annual Meeting outside of North America every three to five years?

What percentage of our membership is coming from overseas? Is it enough to warrants this “fair trade” or perhaps holding the annual meeting internationally once every four years or some other rotation?

**Co-Located/Joint Conferences Outside North America Favored.** Sixty-nine percent of the survey respondents said they were neutral, likely or very likely to attend an annual meeting held outside North America when the annual meeting was co-located with another conference (Figure 3, question 2a).

**Possible Co-Located/Joint Conferences.** The survey asked respondents which conferences should ASIS&T consider co-locating with. The list of conferences was developed in consultation with IRC and board members. The conferences with the highest mean ratings were the iConference (mean = 3.27) and JCDL (mean = 3.24). However it should be noted that for each conference, the response that received the most votes was “3,” a neutral response (see Figure 4).

The survey also asked respondents to identify other conferences that ASIS&T
could co-locate with. Conferences mentioned most frequently were IFLA, SLA and ISIC. Each was mentioned eight times. The next most frequently mentioned conference was CoLIS (mentioned six times), and ACM SIGIR (mentioned four times). Given these responses it appears there is no strong consensus regarding which conference ASIS&T should consider co-locating with. This may be a reflection of the unique multidisciplinary perspective of ASIS&T.

**Recommended Frequency of Co-Located Conferences.** Sixty-two percent suggested ASIS&T should hold a co-located/joint conference every two to three years (Figure 5).

**Recommendations**

The survey results suggest an annual meeting could be held in Europe, ideally in conjunction with another conference every few years. The following action plans are suggested:

1. In addition to the conferences mentioned by respondents, perhaps an option could be to hold the Annual Meeting in conjunction with EuroIA (www.euroia.org), a conference ASIS&T already runs. This option could also help bridge the researcher-practitioner gap that exists in our discipline.

2. ASIS&T could extend a call to the membership asking for proposals with respect to holding an annual meeting in Europe. Each proposal should include cost estimates for travel and for local hotel and food costs as well as other items specified by the Executive Director. In addition any funding and/or sponsorship opportunities should be identified in each proposal. Many cities in Europe have non-profit organizations that can prepare such proposals.

3. Alternatively ASIS&T headquarters can develop a proposal that identifies one or two cost-effective locations in Europe for an annual meeting.

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank the 247 respondents who participated to the survey. We also bid our appreciation to the Board members for providing precious suggestions for the survey design and Dick Hill for the keen support for running the survey. Vivienne Houghton’s genuine contribution in preparing and running the survey and Dr. Ying-Hsang Liu’s assistance in data analysis are most appreciated.
Douglas C. Engelbart, a pioneer in the design of interactive computer environments and the inventor of the computer mouse, died at his California home in early July at the age of 88. Born in 1925 in Portland, Oregon, Engelbart was midway through his college studies at Oregon State College, near the end of World War II, when he was drafted into the United States Navy. While serving as a radar technician in the Philippines, it is said that he was in the library one day on a small island when he happened upon Vannevar Bush’s article “As We May Think.” Engelbart was fascinated with the idea of Bush’s information retrieval system called Memex. He made it his life’s work.

In 1996, ASIS&T honored Engelbart with a special award for long-term contributions to the advancement of information science and technology, particularly in recognizing “enhancement of public access to information and discovery of mechanisms for improved transfer and utilization of knowledge.” At the same ASIS&T Annual Meeting at which Engelbart received that award, he was one of seven participants on a special panel entitled Reflections on Our Future. Other panelists were moderator Chuck Davis, Indiana University; Candy Schwartz, Simmons College; Gary Marchionini, University of Maryland; Belver Griffith, Drexel University; Clifford Lynch, University of California; and Eugene Garfield, Institute for Scientific Information. The session featured these visionaries, researchers and academics looking at the state-of-the-art of information science at that time within the context of what it portended for the future of society, as well as for the information profession. An edited transcript of Engelbart’s comments is included as a feature article in this issue of the Bulletin, beginning on page 44.

Gary Marchionini wrote the following words upon hearing of Engelbart’s death.

Some of you might have heard that Doug Engelbart died on July 2. Engelbart was the father of interactive computing and the intellectual inspiration for my work over the past 30 years. In the post-WWII period he was the first to realize that computing could “augment the intellect,” and he began working to demonstrate how to achieve this vision. His 1962 paper “Augmenting Human Intellect: A Conceptual Framework” was always required reading in my HCI seminar because not only does he lay out his vision for improving the human condition through computing but he presents ideas that led to word processing and collaborative work. Engelbart is best known for inventing the mouse and for his demo at the Joint Computer Conference in 1968 that demonstrated online networking (NLS) that included hypertext, word processing and the mouse. Through his bootstrapping institute he aimed to augment our collective intellect through collaborative technologies. Although he recognized the importance of collaborative technologies for all organizations, he was particularly interested in developing ways that professional societies, community groups and other socially responsible organizations could leverage computing to improve their impact and effect. At the 1996 ASIS&T Annual Meeting he made a plea for ASIS&T and other professional societies to increase collaboration to achieve common scholarly goals, a theme that resonated with the strong digital library movement underway at that time.

His influence on information science is paramount because he gave us a practical (tractable) path toward an ideal. Engelbart stands with Shannon, Bush and Simon as inspirations for information science. He inspired a generation of information scientists who work in HCI, HCIR and CSCW to empower and augment human capabilities. Most of all, Doug Engelbart was a kind and humble human being who would take the time to talk to young scholars, who accepted the trials as well as the blessings of life and who inspired many of us to keep our focus on why we invest so much in information and technology – to help people live productive and meaningful lives.